commenced their inroads within a few years, such as the Cnicus arvensis, improperly called *Canada thistle;* the Genista tinctoria or *Dyer's weed*, &c. —In return for these introductions, we have sent them the Erigeron Canadense, and the prolific families of Ambrosia and Amaranthus.

No race of plants is more familiarly known than the Ranunculi. Of numerous species, both native and imported, which we possess; several resemble each other so nearly, as to pass with common observers for the same plant. The great similarity of their properties renders it almost unnecessary in a medical or economical point of view to distinguish them. I have selected the bulbous-rooted species, not because it is more active in its properties than many others, but because it is one of the most common and best known.

The genus belongs to the class *Polyandria*, and order *Polygynia*. It is found in the natural orders *Multisiliquæ*, Linn. and *Ranunculaceæ*, Juss. Its generic character is formed by *a five leaved calyx; five petals, with a melliferous pore at the base of each; the seeds naked.* No genus can be more strictly natural than this. A general resemblance pervades the whole of the species, which indicates their consanguinity at sight.

The nectary, the never failing concomitant of this genus, is a small cavity at the inside of the claw of each petal, generally covered by a flat scale, sometimes surrounded with a concave brim, and at others inclosed in a short cylinder. A subtle and violent acrimony, on which the medical properties seem to depend, is found in most, if not in all, of the species.

The species *bulbosus* has *compound leaves, an erect many flowered stem, a furrowed peduncle, reflexed calyx, and bulbous root.* It grows generally in dry pastures, mowing lands and road sides, flowering abundantly in May and the first part of June, after which it gives place to its equally abundant successors, R. acris and repens, which, however, generally prefer a more moist soil. These three species, having flowers of similar size and appearance, are indiscriminately known by the name of *Buttercups.* Their distinction affords a pleasing instance of different combinations of features, forming separate characters for similar plants. The *R. bulbosus* has a furrowed flower-stalk and reflexed calyx; *R. repens* a furrowed flower-stalk and spreading calyx, and *R. acris* a round flower-stalk and spreading calyx.